

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT:

Claims 1-10 were previously canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for driving a vertical mixer with at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing, with at least one inlet for a product to be mixed, with at least one outlet and with at least one drive, comprising:

continuously completely filling the vertical mixer in an operating state, the filling of the vertical mixer including supplying of an additive to the product at an input located between the inlet and the outlet, a shear field being built-up in the product by the mixing tool; and

establishing continuous product flow from the inlet of the product to be mixed as far as the outlet of the product to be mixed, such that a primary product is fed continuously into the vertical mixer and the flow of the primary product can be regulated in a dosed fashion at the outlet.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising:
adjusting the mixing tool at least partly to backward conveyance in an opposite direction to the product flow.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim[,] 11, comprising:
using the vertical mixer as a dosing device.

14. (Presently Presented) A method according to claim 12, comprising:
using the vertical mixer as a dosing device.
15. (Presently Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising:
inserting directly after the vertical mixer at least one of an extruder, forage
pellet press, an expander, and a batch mixer.
16. (Presently Presented) A method according to claim 12, comprising:
inserting directly after the mixer at least one of an extruder, forage pellet
press, an expander and a batch mixer.
17. (Presently Presented) A method according to claim 13, comprising:
inserting directly after the mixer an extruder, forage pellet press, an expander
and a batch mixer.
18. (Presently Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising:
pressing the product by means of the mixing tool in a direction of an inner
wall of the housing.
19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A device according to claim 27~~ A device for driving a vertical mixer comprising:

at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing for building up a shear field in the product during an operating state;

at least one inlet for a product to be mixed;

at least one outlet means for regulating flow of a primary product in a dosed fashion when continuous product flow is established from the inlet to the outlet using the mixing tool; and

at least one drive for the mixing tool, the mixing tool being arranged on a shaft and a product discharge device being provided at the outlet, wherein the mixing tool is provided with paddles arranged on a hollow shaft, and inside the hollow shaft there is an inner shaft for a rotary slide valve produced at the outlet.

21. (Original) A device according to claim 20, wherein the drive is connected to the hollow shaft and to the inner shaft of the rotary slide valve via adjustable gearing or the inner shaft with the rotary slide valve is driven separately.

22. (Currently Amended) A device for driving a vertical mixer comprising:

at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing for building up a shear field in the product during an operating state;

at least one inlet for a product to be mixed;

at least one outlet for regulating flow of a primary product in a dosed fashion when continuous product flow is established from the inlet to the outlet using the mixing tool;

at least one drive for the mixing tool, the mixing tool being arranged on a shaft and a product discharge device being provided at the outlet; and

above an opening of the outlet in a housing floor, an intermediate floor provided with an opening, whereby the intermediate floor blocks off a cross-section of the opening of the outlet to divert the product in the dosed fashion; and

at least one additional input located between the inlet and the intermediate floor for supplying an additive to the product to be mixed by the mixing tool.

23. (Original) A device according to claim 20 comprising, above an opening of the outlet in a housing floor, an intermediate floor provided with an opening, whereby the intermediate floor blocks off a cross-section of the opening of the outlet to divert the product.

24. (Presently Presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein the vertical mixer has additional points for gaseous, liquid, powdery or pasty additives.

25. (Presently Presented) A device according to claim 20, wherein the vertical mixer has additional points for gaseous, liquid, powdery or pasty additives.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the method is used to drive at least one of a vapor, liquid, powdery and pasty product.

27. (Currently Amended) A device for driving a vertical mixer comprising:

- at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing for building up a shear field in the product during an operating state;
- at least one inlet for a product to be mixed;
- at least one outlet means for regulating flow of a primary product in a dosed fashion when continuous product flow is established from the inlet to the outlet using the mixing tool; and
- at least one drive for the mixing tool, the mixing tool being arranged on a shaft and a product discharge device being provided at the outlet;
- at least one additional input located between the inlet and the outlet for supplying an additive to the product to be mixed by the rotatable mixing tool.